

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application for:**

Albert K. Chin, et al.

**Serial No.:** 09/413,012

**Filing Date:** October 5, 1999

**For:** TISSUE DISSECTOR APPARATUS

**Group Art Unit:** 3731

**Examiner:** Nguyen, Vi X

**Confirmation No.:** 1400

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the items identified in this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) are being brought to the attention of the Office. The items are listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08a/b. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

The items identified in this IDS may or may not be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56. The submission thereof by Applicant(s) is not to be construed as an admission that any such patent, publication or other information referred to therein is material or considered to be material (37 CFR § 1.97(h)), or even qualifies as "prior art" under 35 USC § 102 with respect to this invention unless specifically designated by Applicant(s) as such.

**1. Fee:**

- ☐ Charge the fee due under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) to the deposit account referenced below.
- ☐ The fee due under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) is being concurrently submitted with the filing of an electronic IDS submission. Thus, no additional fee is required.

**2. Statement Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e):**

- ☐ That each item of information contained in the IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS; or
- ☐ That no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the

certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS.

**3. Copies of the Cited Items:**

- ☐ Copies of all of the items listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08b are enclosed.
- ☒ Copies of the following items listed on the attached form PTO/SB/08a (Item Nos. 1-13 under Foreign Patent Documents) are enclosed.
- ☐ Copies of the following documents listed in PTO/SB/08b (Item Nos. \*) are not supplied as they were previously cited by the Office or submitted in Information Disclosure Statements in related applications and relied upon in this application for an earlier filing date under 35 USC § 120. See 37 CFR § 1.98(d). The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

**4. Conclusion:**

Citation of the above documents shall not be construed as:

1. an admission that the documents are necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention;
2. a representation that a search has been made, other than as described above; and
3. an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate consideration of the cited references by returning a copy of the attached form PTO/SB/08a/b with initials or other appropriate marks. In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the U.S. Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant(s) petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 501105, referencing MO 06-00550US03.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 11, 2009

By: /Gerald Chan/  
Gerald Chan  
Registration No. 51,541

**Vista IP Law Group, LLP**  
1885 Lundy Ave., Ste. 108  
San Jose, CA 95131  
Telephone: (408) 321-8663 (Ext. 203)  
Facsimile: (408) 877-1662